

November 21, 2013

Please note that news sites update their hyperlinks, so it is advised that articles of interest be read soon as they might not be accessible later.

**Midland Judge Dorene S. Allen to receive Daniel J. Wright Award
Honor recognizes exceptional work on behalf of Michigan children and families;
Allen's success in reducing juvenile delinquency cited**

Press release

The Detroit News: Michigan's high court to hear oral arguments in McCree disciplinary case

"The Michigan Supreme Court will hear oral arguments Dec. 11 in the judicial disciplinary case of disgraced Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Wade McCree. The hearing is one of the last steps in the case against McCree before the court makes the final decision on whether McCree should be removed from the court."

Full story

Detroit Free Press: Michigan court won't take library's appeal over gun policy

"The Michigan Supreme Court won't upset a lower court ruling that prohibits a Lansing-area library from banning guns. In a 6-1 decision, the court says it won't hear an appeal from the Capital Area District Library in Ingham County. The library banned weapons at its branches, but the state appeals court last year struck down that policy."

Full story

Note: The Associated Press article also ran in the Lansing State Journal, the News Daily/Rockville, MD, the Republic/Columbus, IN and other media outlets.

The Detroit News: Schuette picks new solicitor general

"Aaron Lindstrom will become Michigan's new solicitor general, handling state cases in the Michigan Supreme Court and federal courts, Attorney General Bill Schuette announced Thursday.... Lindstrom will replace John Bursch, who had served three years as state solicitor general. Bursch will leave the attorney general's office Dec. 6 to rejoin Warner Norcross & Judd in Grand Rapids."

Full story

Also see:

MLive.com: Attorney General Bill Schuette names new solicitor general to represent state in Supreme Court cases

Full story

Detroit Legal News: Courts to celebrate Michigan Adoption Day November 26

"... In what is now a holiday tradition for many Michigan family courts, Michigan Adoption Day will be celebrated on Tuesday, Nov. 26. The event is held on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving each year, highlighting the importance of adoption and the needs of children in foster care. Thirty Michigan counties will participate, finalizing the adoptions of about 80 children. While many courts observe Michigan Adoption Day by finalizing adoptions, others will hold informational events to reach potential adoptive parents."

Full story

Note: The article also ran in the Jackson County Legal News and the Oakland County Legal News.

Also see:

**Michigan Adoption Day 2013 to be held Tuesday, November 26
State's celebration of adoptive families now in 11th year, includes 30 counties**

Press release

The Allegan County News: Input session shows support for green space after current jail is torn down

"As Allegan County's new jail prepares to open, the county has the jail's architects putting together a plan for how to use the county's downtown block—the courthouse and the soon-to-be-former jail.... Aside from concerns over the former jail, county staff also have some concerns about the existing design of the courthouse."

Full story

Associated Press: Murder conviction tossed because jury saw shackles

"The Michigan appeals court has thrown out a murder conviction in Genesee County, saying the defendant's rights were violated when the jury saw his leg shackles. The decision means another trial for Lorenzo Relerford Jr. unless the state Supreme Court intervenes. Relerford was convicted in the 2011 death of a Grand Blanc woman, Jeanne Hank."

Full story

Note: This Associated Press article also ran in the Lansing State Journal, the Times Herald/Port Huron and other media outlets.

Also see:

Flint Journal: Appeals court overturns Flint murder conviction after jurors see defendant's leg shackles during trial

Full story

The MLW Blog: Jury seeing leg shackles leads to reversal of conviction

Full story

C & G News/Warren: Ferndale lawyer joins Michigan Supreme Court committee

"Rudy Serra, a Ferndale-based lawyer and former 36th District Court judge, was appointed by the Michigan Supreme Court to serve on the Model Criminal Jury Instructions Committee for a term ending in December 2016.... Serra formerly was on the committee under the State Bar, but with the Supreme Court choosing its own members, he said he was more than willing to serve again."

Full story

Holland Sentinel: Court: Realtor misled buyers of contaminated condo

"A couple who bought a South Haven condo built on contaminated land two blocks from Lake Michigan is entitled to about \$470,000 in damages from the Realtor and her real estate agency that handled the deal, the Court of Appeals has ruled."

Full story

Macomb County Legal News: Former justice discusses 'dark money' in judicial races

"... Former Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Marilyn Kelly [outlined the challenges] posed to democracy by the policy of allowing certain campaign money to be undisclosed. Kelly spoke this month before the American Inns of Court Gerald R. Ford Chapter at Thomas M. Cooley Law School's Grand Rapids campus."

Full story

Macomb County Legal News: Child welfare award winners announced

"The Foster Care Review Board has announced the recipients of its 2013 Child Welfare Awards, which recognize exceptional service to children and families in the state's child welfare system.... Judge John A.

Hohman, Jr., who was recently named State Court Administrator, received the Jurist of the Year Award for his work as a probate court judge in Monroe County."

Full story

The Michigan Daily/Ann Arbor: From the Daily: Claiming the court

The editorial states "On Tuesday, Nov. 12, Gov. Rick Snyder signed into law a bill that ends Ingham County Circuit Court's tenure as Michigan's Court of Claims. Public Act 164 moves the Court of Claims out of the Ingham County Circuit Court to the Court of Appeals and expands the court's jurisdiction."

Full story

The Morning Sun/Mount Pleasant: Linda Gittleman: On behalf of the children

"For five years Jennifer Leppien of Alma has been a volunteer for Gratiot County's Court Appointed Special Advocates and was just named 'Advocate of the Year' for the entire state. Being a CASA volunteer is a big job, although one the mother of seven – three are out of the nest – has performed flawlessly, by all accounts. A CASA volunteer is one who, in court proceedings, takes the side of the kids."

Full story

The News-Herald/Southgate: WOODHAVEN: Fourth generation attorney sworn in by his father

"In an emotional ceremony earlier this month, Sean M. McNally of Trenton became the eighth member of his family to be sworn in to practice law in Michigan. The ceremony was conducted by his father, 33rd District Judge Michael K. McNally. Five of his family members currently licensed to practice law in Michigan attended the ceremony at the Woodhaven courthouse."

Full story

The Oakland County Legal News: By the book: Life of legendary judge in spotlight

"Philanthropist A. Alfred Taubman, the real estate magnate universally credited with pioneering the modern shopping mall, wanted to do 'something special' for his longtime friend, Damon J. Keith, the distinguished federal jurist who has devoted a career to 'fighting the good fight' for social and racial justice."

Full story

Oakland County Legal News: Hispanic Bar honors community's achievements

"The Hispanic Bar Association of Michigan (HBAM) hosted its annual Holiday Party on Thursday, Nov. 7, at Vicente's Cuban Cuisine in Detroit. Among those enjoying the evening were ... Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Maria Oxholm; ... Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Patricia Perez Fresard [and other board members.]"

Full story

Press & Guide/Dearborn: DETROIT: State Court of Appeals upholds judge's disqualification in marijuana case

"The state Court of Appeals ruled Nov. 14 that 19th District Judge Mark Somers was properly disqualified from hearing a case involving the Michigan Medical Marijuana Act because of comments he made in a different case regarding the drug. Court of Appeals Judges Michael Kelly, Mark Cavanagh and Douglas Shapiro unanimously agreed on the ruling in the city of Dearborn's case against defendant Glen Steven Navoy."

Full story

Three Rivers Commercial-News: Sturgis attorney named juvenile court referee

"Sturgis attorney Tom Robertson has been chosen as St. Joseph County Juvenile Court Division director/referee. Robertson succeeds Terry Evans, who has resigned the position. St. Joseph County commissioners at their committee of the whole meeting Thursday morning [November 14] by consensus approved the employment of Robertson for the juvenile court responsibilities."

Full story

WNDU-TV(16)/South Bend, IN: Berrien County held in contempt for opening police gun range

"Berrien County is going to court for disregarding orders from the Michigan Supreme Court. The county is now held in contempt. Back in 2008, a court order shut down a gun shooting range, located at the Berrien County Law Enforcement Training Facility on Angling Road. The court's ruling was in response to a lawsuit filed in 2005, claiming that Coloma Township had to give zoning approval for the building to be used as a shooting range."

[Full story](#)